

Victim or Victor**February 12, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

"Faith is [our] response to God's initiative," claims John White. Given this definition, faith is shown not in how devotedly we believe, but in how powerfully we take action. It can be illustrated by Gideon, who entered public life as a timid and uncertain man, constantly second-guessing himself. Yet Gideon took action when God asked him to do so. Our passage for this study chronicles the metamorphosis of Gideon from victim mentality to a courageous, victorious man of faith.

With your Bible or Youversion.com read 6:1 - 7:22

- Compare the words of God to the words of Gideon in Judges 6:7-15. How did Gideon's view of the problem and its solution differ from God's?
- How did the miracle of Judges 6:21 change Gideon?
- God's first command to Gideon was to tear down his father's altar to Baal (Judges 6:25-27). How did Gideon's obedience differ from God's intention?
- How could true obedience have made an even greater impact on Gideon's family and community (Judges 6:28-30)?
- When has your repentance and obedience been less than complete? What was the result?
- What actions did Gideon take in obedience to God?
- How did God encourage Gideon?
- Gideon called the people to battle (Judges 6:34-35) before he laid out the fleece (Judges 6:36-40). What do you think would have happened if he had asked for the proof first?
- Many people have sought spiritual guidance by asking for a specific sign. Because they base this on what Gideon

did, this practice is sometimes referred to as "fleecing." Have you or someone you know ever tried it? What happened?

- What does Gideon's experience teach you about this practice? What relevance do you think it has today?
- How would Gideon have felt when over two-thirds of his men went home?
- What kind of person was God looking for as he sifted and separated the soldiers?
- What thoughts might have gone through Gideon and Purah's heads as they approached the Midianite camp (Judges 7:8-12)?
- How were Gideon and the Israelite army like a barley loaf (Judges 7:13-15)?
- How was Gideon changed by the events in this study?
- How has God given you encouragement when you wavered in your faith?
- What does the outcome of the battle remind us about God? About ourselves?
- Have there been areas in your life where you can see that God has taken you from victim to victor?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Give myself to God, finding in Him forgiveness and a victorious life.
- Embrace the role that God has for me so that I may be a blessing to my family and world.
- Do it - act on God's Word so that I might see the victory.
- Meditate on and/or memorize 2 Timothy 1:7

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Spend time in prayer thanking God for His initiative in your life..
- Come before God in an attitude of openness and allow Him to reveal to you any area of disobedience and lack of faith. Repent and call upon the power of the Holy Spirit to help you change.
- Ask God to help you live with the idea of leaving a legacy of faith for your children, grandchildren, and anyone who knows you.